

In the Description

Page 1, line 1 change "This... 2001." to

--This application is a division of serial No. 10/116,7766, filed April 4, 2002 claiming the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 60/280,991, FILED April 4, 2001.--

Rewrite page 8, lines 10 to 17 as follows:

-- Fig. 8 and Fig. 11 refer to the operation of the rearward lock 28. The spring clip rearward lock 28 contains an [.] aperture 27 through which the needle 12 moves. The four points 30 or cutouts provide sufficient bending to allow the needle 12 to retract into the housing 21 with minimum friction. When the needle sharpened tip 13 is retracted within the housing 21, the slightly flexed clip points 30 move back to their original non-flexed position decreasing the diameter of the aperture 27 of the rearward lock 28. When the needle 12 attempts to exit the housing 21 from within, the depression (see Fig. 11) is pushed forward further decreasing the size of the aperture 27 [30] and preventing the needle 12 from exiting the housing 21.--

Rewrite page 10, line 3 to page 11, line 11 as follows:

--Figs. 19, 20, 20A, 21, 22, 23, refer to the components of the safety needle assembly depicted in Figs. 24,25,26,27. The safety needle housing 101 shown in cross section consists of a generally tubular construction with an aperture 105 at one end and with the inner hollowed out portion 108 having two recesses 106 and 206. Into the first recess 106 is positioned the stainless steel washer 102. The washer 102 outer diameter points 202 are slightly larger than the recess 106 diameter. The points 202 bite into the plastic wall creating an effective seal of the washer 102 to the housing 101.

The Mylar (polyester film) strip 110 is corrugated as shown in Fig. 27 and has a series of longitudinally spaced apart apertures 111 (Fig. 23). The end or first corrugation 221 is placed behind the washer 102, that is, between the face wall 104 of the housing 101 prior to locking the washer 102 in place. The compressed corrugated Mylar strip 110 is placed within the housing 101. Just in front of the last corrugation is placed the hub locking washer 103. This washer 103 is placed in the rear recess 206 with the four cutouts of the washer 103 positioned over the four splines 107 of the safety needle housing 101. This washer 103 is pushed or otherwise positioned over the needle hub 20 splines 210 to form an interference fit between the washer 103 and the needle hub 20.

The fitment of the washer 103 over the safety needle housing splines 107 is sufficient that the housing 101 may be gripped and used to wrench the needle hub 20 onto a male luer connector (not shown). The clearance between the washer 103 outer ring is such that when the safety needle housing 101 is moved forward, the housing 101 will readily separate from the washer 103 leaving the Mylar strip 110 connected to the needle hub 20.

As the safety needle housing 101 moves down the needle 12 axis, the Mylar strip 110 unfolds about the needle 12 until it reaches its maximum extension. The Mylar strip's 110 length is such that the housing 101 will enclose the sharpened end of the needle 12 before full extension is obtained. When full extension of the Mylar strip 110 is obtained and the needle 12 is totally within the safety needle housing 101, the user releases the housing 101. At that time there is some retraction of the Mylar strip 110 pushing the needle 12 sharpened point against the "H" shaped lock 102. This lock 102

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is initially flexed 204 inwardly by the movement of the needle 12 in the proximal direction through the housing 101.

When the needle 12 is retracted into the housing 101 the washer flaps 241 close and regain their initial shape. The "H" section 102 is prevented from moving in the opposite direction (outward) by the front wall of the housing 101 which interferes with any potential movement of the flaps 241.--